

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-22 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 17, and 22 are amended herein.

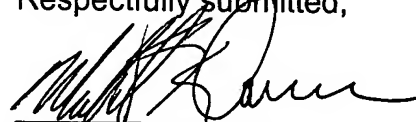
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indicating that claims 8 and 9 are allowable. These claims are therefore amended herein into independent form to include the description of original claim 1, from which they depended. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 22, *inter alia*, were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe (JP 01-30729). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, claims 1 and 22 have nonetheless been amended to recite that the label sleeve is an unoriented film label sleeve, support for which can be found at paragraph 20 and throughout the specification as a preferred embodiment. Because Watanabe neither discloses nor suggests the use of unoriented films, but rather teaches a heat-shrinkable film, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 22, and those claims which depend from them, are distinguished from Watanabe for at least this reason. In light of this change, Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining rejections are now moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome, and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), enter the above amendment, remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



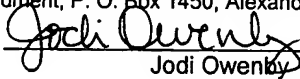
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24 September 2004
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Jodi Owenly

24 September 2004
Date